

U.S. Court Rules Illegal, Distributors Dictate Theatre Prices

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Editor and Managing Director

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MURDERER BLAMES MOVIES



Ont., that "I saw it done this way in the movies."

Suiting the action to the word, Ramesbottom tied a handkerchief behind, with its loose folds in front, to show the magistrate how he could convert this into a mask by pulling it up over his face. This is all the "movies" apparently taught this man, who has been convicted and condemned to the gallows.

The press, however, had a headline "Taught By Movies Swears Murderer" and a sub-head, "Ramesbottom Dons Hollywood Mask in London Court."

The story of the convicted man relates that he was coached in his preparations for the hold-up by Henry Quinn of Sarnia, who is, like himself, awaiting execution, and by John Traxler, who is on trial on a charge of robbery armed. This is not of sufficient public interest to make a headline.

Ramesbottom testified that the robbery of the Weinstein store was proposed by Traxler, who had a meeting with Quinn at Traxler's house. He, Quinn, and Traxler took a survey of the locality and Traxler said, "The first thing to remember on a job of this kind, kid, is your getaway." Traxler then showed him various paths between houses, and where they would come out on the other side of the block. Traxler also offered goggles for disguise; and yet the press blazon the message, "Taught by Movies."

PARIS GOES THEATRE DARK

OVER 3,000 joined in a strike, which pulled the shades down on Paris "Night Life", as far as theatres were concerned. It all happened on April 5th, and was the concrete evidence of

a protest against the Government for its refusal to reduce amusement taxes.

The strike directly concerned the cinemas, since it was not the intention of the Government to reduce the tax on these theatres, although concessions had been offered by the Government on theatres in general.

About 3,200 theatres throughout France joined in the 24-hour strike, and it was said that the Government lost approximately 1,000,000 francs, (\$39,400) in taxes, as a result of this one day strike.

Paris closed 300 places of amusement, the only two theatres, which remained open, were the two state-supported theatres, the Odeon, and the Opera Comique. All theatres, cinemas, music halls, cabarets and circuses throughout France, had a night off.

Huge padlocks were utilized to attract attention, and flaming yellow posters, demanding tax relief, were utilized. In the meantime Premier Andre Tardieu states he must balance the budget and this cannot be done with a reduction in cinema taxes.

It is in the makeup of humans to hate taxes with a deadly hatred, for their collection as recorded in history, has not infrequently been coupled with tyranny and oppression.

This civilization has learned to accept its "chain and ball" of taxation, with resignation. We cannot have a world-war, with its destruction of millions of "earning-power-humans", and billions in wealth blown up, we cannot have an economic world war, without someone paying the piper, for the "mad dance" with which we have worshipped the golden calf. Always, inevitably, the people pay, and the method of such payment today is through taxes! Noah's Flood and Sodom and Gomorrah were worse!



RALEIGH



RAY L. LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE LATE GEORGE EASTMAN left the bulk of his estate to Rochester Institutions. The Kodak Emperor's will leaves most of \$20,000,000 to the University of Rochester, which he has already endowed with millions. In addition to \$12,000,000 in cash, the university will receive as a home for its presidents, the mansion of the late philanthropist, with a fund of \$2,000,000 as a provision for its upkeep.

\$2,500,000 is bequeathed to the Eastman School of Music, which he founded, and \$1,000,000 to the dental dispensary, which he also established in Rochester.

To a niece, his closest living relative, \$100,000 in cash and Oak Lodge with \$100,000 for its upkeep. To her two children the income from \$100,000, and to her husband, Eastman's hunting equipment.

The will contains an important message in the nature of its bequests. It is in attune with the sound philanthropic impulses of Eastman, who takes care of blood-relatives reasonably, and with consideration, but gives back to the world, the wealth which the world gave him for his stewardship. When we of Motion Pictures are asked to name our philanthropists, George Eastman will head the list.

ANOTHER old timer has "rent aside the Veil of the Eternal." Rose Coghlan, star of the stage for many years, passes on at 82. Rose Coghlan will be remembered for such roles as Peg Woffington, Mistress Page in the "Merry Wives of Windsor", as Lady Teazle, etc., etc.

In "Forget-Me-Not" she achieved her most distinctive success, although for a period of thirty years, her star proclaimed her a luminary of Thespian fame!

In 1920, when she was seventy, she appeared in David Belasco's "Deburau." It was a thrilling performance, and perhaps the last of her stage career, for two years later she became ill and, with the luck of a player, poverty-stricken.

Broadway, however, the gay, white, heartless, yet sentimental way, gave her \$10,000, in a benefit performance.

Death came at St. Vincent's Retreat, Harrison, N.Y., Saturday, April 2nd.

We are happy to report that Marie Dressler is quite recovered, and ready for her next, which will be with Polly Moran.

This new generation will be obliged to treasure its veteran players, those who were cradled in the Drama, when Drama was an Art and the world was stage-struck. Marie Dressler has this glorious background, a histrionic environment, and technique, an artistry which makes her indeed, Queen of the Screen, long may she reign!

TORONTO is still talking about Wallace Beery's performance in "Hell's Divers." Here is another old-timer, who is showing the Lotharios of the Screen, that it is not necessary to have drooping eyelids, a figure like an Adonis, or a natural permanent wave to "make the women rave". Ability still counts in this machine-made age, for even the Master-Minds have failed to people the world with Robots, who have no heart, nor an intuitional sense of Real Values.

John Barrymore and Lionel Barrymore are appearing this week at Loew's in "Arsene Lupin." We have not made up our mind, whom we like the best in their respective roles, John as Arsene, or Lionel, who hounds him as an Arm of the Law, to his capture!

There is something about Lionel Barrymore's work, when he gets well-fitted in a role, which grips you, haunts you. He is at home in this M-G-M picture; and perhaps, his work is more interesting as a character study, than that of his brother, John. Perhaps, we concede this reluctantly, you may not agree with us, but nevertheless, that's the way we feel about it. Incidentally "Arsene Lupin" will bring Leo upon his hind legs, erect, to show the Show World that M-G-M continues to know how to make pictures for the Entertainment of the World.

BUSTER KEATON ran off with his two children and a nurse. By aeroplane. Doesn't it sound like a moving picture? The San Diego police detained him for questioning, on orders from Natalie Talmadge Keaton, "the wife he left behind."

Keaton was released, since the police found no reason to further detain him. His objective was Ensenada, Mexico, but Dame Gossip, who just loves to talk about people, is whispering "Divorce." However, since everybody is doing it, Kings, Queens, and commoners, whose business is it anyhow, if the Keatons decide that a house divided against itself generally brings about a divorce?

And now you will be interested to know that Gloria Swanson has given birth to a daughter. Gloria already has a daughter and looked forward to a Swan-son. Never mind, Gloria, you picked a good town anyway, for your daughter's birthplace, London, England. Michael Farmer reacting as most fathers do, when the wife gives birth, told the press, "I am in a complete daze." Men have been known to faint from the strain! Can you imagine Mr. and Mrs. Farmer's surprise, when the stork arrived one

(Continued on Page 5)

The Motion Picture Industry is now banking interest

Fox Propose Reduction Capital Value of Stock

A reduction in the capital value of the Fox Film Corp., from \$90,780,000 to \$12,628,300 is proposed, involving a change in the A and B shares of the company, from no par value to a par value of \$5.00.

The plan was outlined in a letter sent out by the President, Mr. Edward R. Tinker, on March 31st. in connection with the issuance of the corporation's annual report.

Stock holders will be asked to vote on the proposal at their meeting on April 19th.

The reduction of more than \$78,000,000 is proposed in order to permit the write-down of the corporation's investments in the Fox Chicago Theatre Company, the Fox Theatres Corporation and other properties to \$1.00, and for the purpose of setting up paid-in and earned surplus and reserves totaling \$40,030,525. The reserves which are so created will not be immediately applied to the write-down of investments, but will be held against future contingencies, so the New York Times reports.

The net income of the Fox Film Corporation in 1931 after charges, but before providing for depreciation and other non-cash items, amounted to \$1,127,415, in accordance with the Annual Report of March 31st.

After writing-off depreciation of \$4,079,658 and amortization of bond discount and expenses of \$1,248,422, there was shown a net loss, after taxes, of \$4,263,558. This was in contrast to a profit in 1930 of \$10,251,827.

The 1931 gross income amounted to \$85,774,237 as contrasted with gross income of 1930, reported as \$102,004,009.

The decline is accounted for in film rentals amounting to a decrease of \$3,800,000, theatre admissions decrease of \$10,000,000 and \$1,800,000 in dividends received.

Operating expenses, exclusive of studio expenses declined from \$54,563,268 in 1930, to \$50,363,056 in 1931. This reduction of over \$4,000,000 was due to a decrease in the cost of theatre operation.

On January 1st, the picture inventory, including cost of completed negatives, positive prints, stories, productions in process, etc., amounted to \$21,203,623 in 1930.

Amortization taken against picture costs in 1930 totaled \$24,352,023, leaving an inventory of \$17,136,300 at the end of 1931.

Surplus on December 26th, 1931, was \$1,954,103 against \$9,618,442, December 27th of 1930, after \$4,104,035 dividends, \$661,513 unrealized losses on foreign exchange, \$266,296 settlement of contracts entered into in prior years and \$368,938 loss on sale, or disposition of capital assets, and also after Federal taxes, depreciation and amortization referred to. Reserve for contingencies was \$2,233,095 against \$2,999,396.

Current assets were \$23,402,481 including \$3,340,596 cash, and current liabilities \$16,637,896 including \$6,250,000 notes payable to banks, \$2,812,198 notes payable to others and \$3,319,767 for part of funded debt maturing within one year. Total assets were \$166,840,359.

POSITION WANTED

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BOX 11 — DIGEST

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 4)

month earlier than was expected, and tapping Gloria on the shoulder announced, "This means you!"



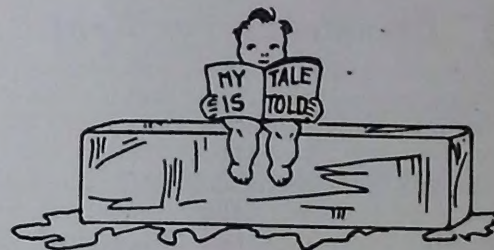
An announcement that there will be no tax on tickets up to 25c was greeted with a cheer by Ontario exhibitors, but with this announcement there also came one which looks like an increase on the tax on tickets over the 25c exemption limit!

The Hon. Fernand Rinfret, M.P., is now Mayor of Montreal, having defeated the former Mayor Houde, by a substantial majority of thousands. The name of Rinfret will be familiar to exhibitors, through its association with the committee selected to consider the Amendment to the Copyright Act, in which the Canadian Performing Right Society took such an active interest.

The Hon. Fernand Rinfret is a bachelor, a linguist and said to be a lover of literature and the Arts. He polled 63,758 votes as against Camillien Houde's 51,026. This result from 1,014 polls out of 1,028.

BEATRICE LILLIE, Toronto-born star and incidentally, Lady Peel, appeared in Bernard Shaw's latest, "Too Good to be True." The play received a good reception at its Broadway premiere, Monday, April 4th. The play shifts for its setting from England to India and Shaw as usual, has his tongue in his cheek, while he hands out sugar-coated sermons!

In the last act, Shaw admits that the younger generation pays little attention to his advice, but the box-office tells a different story. If the younger generation do not absorb Shaw's wisdom for their conduct, they do pay to hear, and do repeat, Shaw's witticisms. Meanwhile Lady Peel appears to have forgotten the lure of the Screen!



Paramount Publix Gets \$9,500,000 in Credits

Arrangements have been completed with New York, Chicago and Philadelphia banks which will immediately provide for credits of \$9,500,000 to repay present bank loans of Paramount-Publix and for additional credit to a total of between \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000 on six month's notes, renewable at the option of the company, for an additional six months. Approximately seventy percent of the loan was taken by the following New York banks: The Bankers Trust Company, National City Bank, Commercial National Bank and Trust Company, Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company, County Trust Company and Chemical Bank and Trust Company. It was also reported that Paramount-Publix had no further stock repurchase obligations, and that the recently acquired stock is held in its treasury.

U.S. Court of Appeals Upholds Theatre Block Booking

At Maple Leaf Gardens

It's good times at the Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, ask Connie Smythe, or Mr. & Mrs. Toronto, they all go there! Saturday, April 2nd, approximately 16,000 excited humans, adults, adolescents, and children, male and female gender, stormed the arena to root, shout and virtually explode emotionally, as the Maple Leafs and Maroons of Montreal "did their hockey stuff!" Boy, what a game! The score was 3-2 in favour of the Maple Leafs, the odd goal was won on an overtime play of 17 minutes and 59 seconds. Bob Gracie did the trick which sent the Maple Leafs into the final series for the Stanley Cup Trophy against the New York Rangers.

With the score tied twice, it was a game which made the crowd register high blood pressure; and at times it looked as if it would be necessary to "carry out the bodies" of hockey enthusiasts!

J. P. Bickel, on the board of Famous Players, and across the board of the Maple Leaf Gardens, had that box-office look which our old time showmen had, when the box-office of cinema palaces registered Fahrenheit!

Bad times for show business? Look for your answer at the Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto. A few Saturdays ago, 14,000 attended a Junior hockey game in the afternoon.

There is a line-up of 5,000, as we go to press, 5,000 waiting, patiently waiting to buy tickets for the Saturday night game. Hundreds we are told, held places all night.

In the days of Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, Mr. & Mrs. Public, sat like Indians, wrapped in blankets, waiting to line-up at the box-office, to see "Faust," "The Bells," "The Merchant of Venice," "King Arthur," etc. These were the days when the Drama was on the Gold Standard. Today Hockey is the play of the people, prize fights, wrestling, etc., etc. Giving the people the thrill they seek and desire, is still, as it always will be, good Show Business. Happy is that Vendor of Amusement who tries to sell what the people want.

Presidency for Kent

Sidney R. Kent, it is reported, will become president of Fox Films, while E. R. Tinker will become chairman of the Board, the latter replacing Harley L. Clarke, who will retire from any active participation in Film affairs.

William Fox founded the Fox Film Interests under the battle-cry of Freedom, Independence! It was Fox, who gave Mr. General Films Trust, one of the body blows which made the Trust take the count.

Sidney R. Kent's film experience has been an association with Paramount-Publix, but even Kent may now have learned that it does not pay "to bust the trust of an Industry", for a "Trust which is bound to bust."

"Merrily We Go To Hell"

It sounds like a good title. It has Frederic March and Sylvia Sydney to make "the going merry." But can you see the face of the Censors when they read the title, and the faces of Mr. and Mrs. Public looking at the posters? Oh Hollywood, can't you be your age!

You know that you cannot go "merrily to Hell." The orthodox view is that there shall be "wailing and gnashing of teeth"; and it will take no Jeremiah to prophesy that "merrily we go" will be as far as the Censors will let you go "To Hell."

Wall Street for Showmen

It looks as if Wall St. is beginning to realize that it takes showmen to run Show Business profitably. Harold B. Franklin, whom we in the Industry always proclaimed a Showman, is likely to become Executive Vice-President of R.K.O. with Phil Reisman, now General Manager of the Film Booking Department remaining at his post.

Winnipeg Business License Up

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

Half the moving picture theatres in Winnipeg will pay \$100 more for their business license, unless the city health committee restores the old fees within the next month. The new rates fixed by a recent by-law provoked a protest from the theatre owners. A sub-committee of aldermen has recommended that the new fees be applied this year.

Under the new schedule several smaller theatres will have to pay \$50 less for a license this year.

On the motion of Alderman Grey, Labor member, the sub-committee report was tabled for a month for consideration of business conditions. The claim was made, when the theatre-owners lodged their protest, that the theatre business is a losing proposition. Any increase in license would have to be counteracted by a decrease in the number of theatre attendants employed.

Victory Group Pictures

In presenting what is known as the "Victory group" of photoplays, four of which were exhibited March 17 at pre-views at the Gaiety Theatre, Winnipeg, through Regal Films, Limited, British producers show the great strides recently made in the old country in the Film Industry.

There have been mediocre pictures that have given moving picture devotees in this country the impression that Canada need not look to Britain for first class cinema entertainment. But all along there has been a steady and definite advance, in technique, in story, in photography and in general appeal, and with these four productions still fresh in the memory the viewer may say that Britain's film makers need not pay homage to any other in the country. More than anything else the satisfactory improvement is noted in direction, indeed, in "Sunshine Susie," Victor Saville showed ability that was little short of genius; and in "Michael and Mary," the same director gave some love scenes that had no trace of "mushiness" in them.

The other two pictures were "Carnival," a colorful spectacle, starring Matheson Lang; and "Lady Panniford's Folly," with Herbert Marshall and Edna Best in the principal roles. These two were also in the film, "Michael and Mary."

It is reported that P. A. Powers, "Pat" Powers, has purchased a "substantial interest" in British International Pictures Limited. That the newly-formed Powers Pictures will release the B.I.P. product in the U. S. "Pat" Powers is an old-timer in the film game. We can remember his association back in the Equitable, and Bill Brady World Pictures tie-up, when Louis Selznick was a Picture Daddy, and Clara Kimbal Young trailed an ermine wrap through the film building, with Selznick telling the World that Clara was the greatest star on earth.

J. M. Franklin of Ottawa, General Manager R K O Canadian Interests

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, "Arsene Lupin," with John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, Karen Morely, Tully Marshall and John Miljan. An amusing as well as suspenseful story, with a great deal of fooling going on between John Barrymore, the silk hatted crook, and Lionel Barrymore, the rather simple minded detective. Lionel sets out to capture John, but is very unsuccessful, as John is much too clever for him, even going so far as to tell Lionel that he is going to steal a certain picture out of the museum. A heavy guard is put on the picture, but by a clever ruse John makes good his boast. The detective enlists the help of Karen Morely, who is also a crook, but to make matters rather complicated, Karen and John fall in love with each other, and again Lionel is foiled. Karen is in danger of being imprisoned, and to save her, John lets her arrest him. But once more John triumphs when he has Lionel's daughter abducted, and held as a hostage for some of John's men who were taken to jail. Underneath his austere front, Lionel has a peculiar affection for the crook, and when he is accompanying him on his way to prison, this kind hearted detective tells John, that at the very spot they are now passing, a prisoner once escaped. John takes the hint. Directed by Jack Conway

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "After Tomorrow," with Charles Farrell, Marion Nixon, Minna Gombell, and William Collier, Sr. Marion and Charles have been engaged for three years, but are unable to marry on account of financial matters. Charles has to support his crippled mother, and Marion has to help pay the bills for an exceedingly extravagant mother. Luck seems against them, but finally Charles gets the raise that will permit them to be married. Just then Marion's heartless mother, runs off with another man, giving her poor husband a heart attack, and Marion and Charles have to hand in all their money in order to pay the doctor bills. Charles' mother marries, and some money Charles has invested with this man, brings good luck, and incidentally more money, thus enabling the long wait-

ing couple to be married. Directed by Frank Borzage for Fox.

TIVOLI—Manager James Lynch — Second week for the Paramount production, "One Hour With You," with Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald, supported by Genevieve Tobin, who practically steals the picture away from the leading lady; and Charlie Ruggles, a long suffering admirer of Jeanette's. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch.

IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels — Peggy Shannon, Alan Mowbray, Theodore Von Eltz, and J. Farrell MacDonald, in the Tiffany film, "Hotel Continental." Both hero and heroine are crooks. The hero is just out of jail, and is at the Hotel Continental in order to get the money he hid there, as the hotel is to be demolished the next day. The heroine is also there for the same purpose. She becomes friendly with the hero, and discovers where the money is hidden. He tells her that when he gets it they will be married. But Peggy is forced to disclose the whereabouts of the money, and the hero discovering her part refuses to have anything to do with her. But when she retrieves the money, and is wounded, he forgives her; they give back the loot and decide to go straight. Directed by Christy Cabanne.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — "The Big Shot," with Eddie Quillan and Maureen O'Sullivan, supported by Mary Nolan, Roscoe Ates and Belle Bennett. The story centres around Eddie Quillan, a small town boy, who seems to be unsuccessful in whatever he undertakes. Maureen O'Sullivan and her mother, are the only ones that believe in him. They mortgage their home in order to give him money to buy a camp, but after buying it find, that it is uninhabitable, on account of a bog close by. Eddie opens up a gasoline station on the site, but it is also financially unsuccessful. A complaint is put in to the health department that the place should be closed down, on account of the bog being dangerous to health. When the bog is tested, it is discovered that it contains sulphur, and is very healthy. The villain, discovering this, tries to buy the camp, but Eddie, told of its value by Maureen, refuses to sell. Very soon the camp, being widely advertised, becomes a health resort, and now having enough money the couple marry. Directed by Ralph Murphy, for R.K.O.

Equipment and Supplies Headquarters

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Our prices are as low as they can consistently be kept, because while our overhead expenses are unusually low, the factors of duty and exchange must be accounted for.

Our Service has always been famed, not only for the prompt shipment of goods ordered and careful attention to proper repairs, but also because of the courteous attention paid to our customers at all times.

If you are not already one of our long standing customers, now is a good time to find out what a great benefit we can be to you, not only on account of sterling goods but also an account of the lower prices and courteous service included.

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SUNSHINE SUSIE

with
RENATE MULLER
JACK HULBERT
OWEN NARES

TUNEFUL SONGS
—you'll soon be singing!

JOYFUL ROMANCE
—to thrill your heart!

UPROARIOUS FUN
—bright, breezy, bracing!

**LAUGH YOUR WAY
THROUGH LIFE** — with
Happy, carefree, singing, dancing,
happy-go-lucky "Sunshine Susie" in the
gayest picture of the year! A new
and delightful personality in the
cleverest musical romance ever pro-
duced! So witty, so original, so enter-
taining, you'll want to see it again
and again! You couldn't see a better
picture!

**Renate Muller Has Become
Filmdom's Big Sensation.**

NOTE—"Sunshine Susie" has been released in the United States under the title of "THE OFFICE GIRL" and is playing leading first-run houses to turn-away business.

A Sure-Fire Box Office Winner

with no end of exploitation angles for live showmen. Title lends itself perfectly to all kinds of tie-ups.

Get Busy! Get Dates! Get Extra Profits!

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